

US009409449B2

(12) United States Patent Cis et al.

(54) SPINDLE ASSEMBLY FOR A TIRE INFLATION SYSTEM

(71) Applicant: DANA ITALIA S.P.A., Arco (Trento)

(IT)

(72) Inventors: Alberto Cis, Ledro (IT); Christian

Lorenzini, Rovereto (IT); Michele Sandri, Villa Lagarina (IT); Virginia Badiola Urquiola, Navarra (ES)

(73) Assignee: Dana Italia S.P.A., Arco (Trento) (IT)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35

U.S.C. 154(b) by 69 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 13/261,973

(22) PCT Filed: Apr. 15, 2013

(86) PCT No.: PCT/EP2013/057781

§ 371 (c)(1),

(2) Date: Oct. 15, 2014

(87) PCT Pub. No.: **WO2013/156430**

PCT Pub. Date: Oct. 24, 2013

(65) Prior Publication Data

US 2015/0068653 A1 Mar. 12, 2015

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 61/635,339, filed on Apr. 19, 2012.

(30) Foreign Application Priority Data

Apr. 19, 2012 (EP) 12164828

(51) Int. Cl. **B60C 29/04** (2006.01) **B60C 23/00** (2006.01)

(10) Patent No.: US 9,409,449 B2

(45) **Date of Patent:** Aug. 9, 2016

(52) U.S. Cl.

CPC *B60C 23/003* (2013.01)

(58) Field of Classification Search

See application file for complete search history.

(56) References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,730,656 A * 3/1988 Goodell B60C 23/003 137/224

4,987,937 A 1/1991 Nowicke (Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP 0588595 A1 3/1994

Primary Examiner — Jeffrey J Restifo (74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Marshall & Melhorn, LLC

(57) ABSTRACT

A spindle assembly for a tire inflation system having a spindle defining an axial direction and a fluid conduit. A rotatable part is rotatably mounted on the spindle and has a fluid passage. The fluid passage is configured to be in fluid communication with a pneumatic tire. A dynamic annular seal chamber is also provided. The annular seal chamber is disposed radially between the spindle and the rotatable part. The fluid conduit and the fluid passage are in fluid communication with each other through the annular seal chamber. The annular seal chamber is disposed axially between a first volume and a second volume. The first volume and the second volume are in fluid communication with each other through at least one fluid channel for leading fluid leaked out of the annular seal chamber and leaked into the first volume and/or into the second volume through the fluid channel.

17 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets

